



## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115  
(605) 362-2760 Fax: 362-2768  
[www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing](http://www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing)

### FOREIGN EDUCATED REGISTERED NURSES – LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

SDCL 36-9-29, 30, 31, and 32 provide legal authority for South Dakota Board of Nursing to examine and license duly qualified applicants seeking nurse licensure in South Dakota. A graduate of a registered nursing education program in a foreign country who has never been licensed as a RN in the US or a US territory must meet these requirements. It is illegal to practice nursing in the state without a valid nursing license.

1. Must have completed a government approved four-year high school course of study or its equivalent.
2. Must be a graduate of a government approved educational program leading to RN licensure that meets South Dakota nursing education requirements that were in place at the time the nurse graduated from the educational program. Since 1954, when psychiatric nursing was added, South Dakota educational requirements include: medical, surgical, pediatrics, obstetric and psychiatric nursing theory and clinical, as well as concepts in physical, biological and behavioral sciences, pharmacology and nutrition.
3. Must have successfully completed the CGFNS Certification Program. Contact the CGFNS at 3600 Market Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia PA 19104-2651; telephone (215) 349-8767; fax (215) 3449-0026; or email [support@cgfns.org](mailto:support@cgfns.org) or log onto the CGFNS website at [www.cgfns.org](http://www.cgfns.org) for applicant information.  
NOTE: Canadian applicants who were educated in English are exempt from this requirement.
4. After successful completion of the CGFNS Certification Program, arrange to have CGFNS send directly to the South Dakota Board of Nursing a letter confirming the successful completion of the program.  
Complete all application forms and submit with: Application to [Pearson](http://www.pearson.com) with the \$200 NCLEX® Registration fee; and the SD Board of Nursing RN Licensure Application with \$100 fee payable to the Board of Nursing
5. Criminal Background Check
  1. Pursuant to SDCL 36-9-97, ARSD 20:48:03:01:01, ARSD 20:48:05:01, ARSD 20:48:03:01, ARSD 20:48:03:07, and ARSD 20:48:03:08 each applicant for initial licensure is required to submit a full set of fingerprints with completed application to obtain a state and federal criminal background check.
  2. If you download an application from the website [www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing](http://www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing) and submit the completed application to the South Dakota Board of Nursing, fingerprint cards will be mailed to you.
  3. The fingerprint cards you receive from the SDBON **must** be the cards you use for fingerprints, since specific agency data are pre-printed on them.
  4. Contact your local law enforcement agency for fingerprinting.
  5. Send to the SD Board of Nursing office your completed fingerprint cards and a separate check or money order for \$44 payable to: South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).
  6. Your application will not be processed and/or temporary license will **not** be issued until your completed application **and** fingerprint cards are received.
  7. You will **not** receive a permanent license until the fingerprint results from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are received by the Board, approximately 1-2 weeks.
  8. Cards will be rejected if bent, folded, tampered with, stained, smeared, or stapled. If rejected, you will be notified to resubmit your cards.
6. [Temporary Permits](#) are issued to first-time NCLEX®-RN writers only. Instructions and Application forms are available at the Board of Nursing website. Steps [3](#), [4](#), and [5](#) above must also be completed before a Temporary Permit can be issued; the Temporary Permit fee is \$25. While practicing nursing on a Temporary Permit, the applicant must practice only under the supervision of a licensed RN. The Temporary Permit is non-renewable, and expires 90 days following its date of issuance or upon notification to the applicant of examination results. Those applicants who fail the exam must return the Temporary Permit to the Board of Nursing office.
7. Achieve a passing score on the NCLEX®-RN Computerized Adaptive Test.